

Lieutenant Governor

## State of Utah Department of Commerce

Division of Securities

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**NEWS RELEASE** 

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Kamas Man Agrees to Repay Investor in Provo Real Estate Investment Fraud Maready took \$20,000 to develop subdivision, promised 100% return in six months ...

**SALT LAKE CITY, Utah** – Robert Leroy Maready, of Kamas, was ordered today to cease soliciting money from investors claiming the money would be used for a real estate development project. Maready also must repay the \$20,000 he took from the investor. The order was entered by the Utah Division of Securities. Maready consented to the order without admitting or denying that he violated the law.

According to the order, Maready solicited \$20,000 from an investor claiming the money would be used to survey and rezone property in Provo that would be sold to a residential real estate developer. The order finds that Maready gave the investor a promissory note that promised to double the investment in six months. He claimed he had worked in real estate for over twenty years and that the property would be developed into 51 residential lots which would sell for \$100,000 each. The investment was made in February 2005 through two of Maready's companies, Pony Express Road, Inc. and Athena Capital, Inc.

Six months later, the investor became suspicious when the owners of the property told him that Maready had stopped any development work and relinquished his right to develop the land. The investor contacted Provo City who said Maready had not submitted any zoning plans. The investor contacted the Division of Securities which conducted an investigation.

The Division's enforcement order finds that Maready failed to tell the investor that he spent time in an Arizona prison after being convicted of fraud and theft. Maready also failed to disclose several civil suits and judgments against him from the early 1990s and did not provide the types of disclosures required when soliciting investments. He is ordered to cease and desist from committing any violations of the securities laws and pay restitution to the victim. Maready has already repaid \$15,000 to the investor.

Investors are urged to contact the Division to make sure anyone offering investments is licensed. 801.530.6600, or toll free at 1.800.721.7233. www.securities.utah.gov.